

Morgantown



Mirror

A Family Newspaper—Independent of Party or Sect.

News, Literature, Agriculture, and Morality.

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TERMS:
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News Items, &c.

Lafayette and Uniontown Railroad.

An encouraging letter from the Chief Engineer of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, appears in the last Uniontown Democrat, which we take pleasure in transferring to our columns. The skies are brightening. Here is the letter:—

The annexed copy of a letter from the President of the Pennsylvania Railroad, to Alex. M. Hill, Esq., gives promise of the speedy construction of our branch Railroad; much more cheering and gratifying than we had anticipated. We had almost begun to despond, but Mr. Thompson is not the man to hold out promises which are not likely to be fulfilled, and when he speaks of the future action of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, he speaks with full knowledge of its temper, disposition and ability. We understand verbally that engineers may be expected on the route in two or three weeks—perhaps sooner. As to the feasibility—may even the exceeding favorableness of the ground, we are able to speak from the generally well formed judgment on the subject.

Office of the Pa. Railroad Company, PHILADELPHIA, May 3, 1852.

Dear Sir:—Your favor is received, and in answer I will state that it is the intention of this Company to order as soon as their engineer corps can be spared, for that object, a survey of the route of your Road. If the report of the engineers is favorable, I have but little doubt but that the Road will be commenced as soon as it is prepared for contract, if your people will raise the whole amount in stock to complete it.

The stock subscribed to be admitted in as common stock of the Company, upon the same conditions that were agreed upon between this Company and the subscribers of the Blairsville Branch.

Yours, very truly,
J. EDGAR THOMPSON.

To Hon. A. M. Hill, Uniontown, Pa.

The Big Tunnel.

We, with some thirty others, passed through the Big Tunnel on Sunday evening, 9th inst. It was the first time a train had passed through. The time occupied was 16 minutes. It is, we believe, the longest railroad tunnel in the world. The sides and roof are solid rock, but some portions of the work are liable to crumble upon being exposed to the air. These portions, it is the purpose of the company to arch with brick. Scaffolding will be put up. We understand, for the present, so as to protect the cars from every possible harm that might occur from the rocks falling from the roof. The cars, hereafter, will run regularly to Potomac, making daily trips, until the road shall have been completed here, which is thought to be in two or three weeks.—Fairmont Virginian.

The Legislature.

The House yesterday agreed to take a recess on the 7th June next. It was in the view of the majority, impossible to draft a proper tax bill, without the returns from the Commissioners of the Revenue, which cannot be received for several months. In view of this, and other important considerations, looking to proper carrying into operation a new government, we cannot doubt that the Legislature have acted wisely and judiciously. However, Congress has not yet fixed the permanent under the new census, and may be some months before the Legislature can have an official basis on which to organize the Congressional District of State.—Richmond Enquirer.

Lafayette Crossman, of New Orleans, in a message to the Councils of that city, mentions the gratifying fact that the city has not visited New Orleans since the epidemic of five years. He ascribes the improvement of the city to the opening of the ditches and in the new plan of the city.

The quickest trip ever made by boat between New Orleans and Louisville has been accomplished by the new steamer Eclipse. Her time was four days and fifteen hours, during which she made 1000 miles.

The Homestead Bill.

An important measure—the homestead bill, so called—it will be seen, on Wednesday passed the U. S. House of Representatives by 51 majority. The measure has been largely discussed during the present session, involving as it did the whole subject of the disposition of the extensive public domain. The bill gives to actual settlers, under certain conditions and restrictions, including so many years of occupancy, 160 acres of the public lands with the view of encouraging their settlement and thus enhancing the value of the lands contiguous to them, and adding to the common stock products and wealth of the country generally.

Terrible Hail Storm.

We were visited on the 14th inst., with the most violent hail storm that has occurred in the vicinity of Parkersburg for many years. Rain fell in torrents for a few minutes, when hailstones of unusual magnitude began to descend, some of which were four inches long. So powerful was the force of these masses of ice that windows were smashed to pieces and buildings otherwise injured; and we have been informed, though not eye-witnesses to the facts, that stock was much injured, cattle being felled to the earth and in some instances killed.—Parkersburg News.

Man Murdered.

We learn that a man named James Dawson living in the upper end of the county, was shot on Wednesday last in the woods, and died in a few hours. John M. Reed was arrested as the perpetrator of the crime, and held to bail to the amount of \$3000, to await further trial.—Park. Gaz.

The Whigs of New York for Mr. Fillmore.

New York, May 13.—Elections were held this morning in all the wards of the City for Delegates to the Congressional District Conventions, which are to appoint Delegates to the National Whig Convention. The polls were opened at every Ward at 6 o'clock, and closed at 9. The general impression now is, that four of the six Congressional Districts, comprising the city, have elected Delegates in favor of Fillmore and two for Scott. Mr. Fillmore will therefore have quite a respectable delegation in the National Convention from this State.

Escape of Cuban Invaders.

New York, May 17th.—The Herald of this city says that Don A. Lago, Braga Miranda, Don Ignacio Beltrami and Don Juan O'Bourke, Cubans, with Major J. Schlesinger, a Hungarian, had escaped from the Spanish penal colony in Africa, on April 24th, and arrived at Liverpool on the 3d instant. They belonged to the Lopez expedition, and they were preparing to leave for America.

Mr. Webster and the Bostonians.

Boston, May 13.—Mr. Webster has replied to the resolutions adopted by the City Council, and consented to address the citizens of Boston in Faneuil Hall before his return to Washington. He has recovered from his fall, with the exception of stiffness and soreness in his arms.

The fire is going out, Miss Filkins. "I know it, Mr. Greene, and if you act wisely, you will follow its example."

Green didn't ax to set up with that gal any more!

How an Actor Regards the Theatre.

—Mr. Macready, the celebrated tragedian has never permitted any of his children, on any pretence to enter a Theatre, or to have any visiting connection with actors or actresses.

Improvement on Old Times.

—Our fathers thought it was a great thing that Franklin could take the lightning from the clouds and spread it on the earth. It is now converted into an agent to go of errands.

The cost of the present session of Congress up to this time, for the pay of members and the ordinary expenses incident to the two houses, is fully half a million of dollars.

Fifty sewing machines, driven by steam, are now daily in operation in New York. By the aid of the sewing machine, one girl can do the work of six.

CONTENTMENT.—Socrates, in going through the market-place, said, "How many things are here that I do not want?"

Over one hundred widows are residing within the limits of the borough of West Chester, Pa. Beware of 'em.

The M-thodists in Ohio number 120, 516 church members, 77 local preachers, and 609 travelling preachers.

Thorough-Paced Doctrine.

An anecdote in Coke's Life of Bolingbroke, is probably little known, but suggests a highly profitable lesson.

Dr. Yalden was arrested upon suspicion of being concerned in the affair, which was at the time called Bishop Atterbury's plot. His papers were seized and strictly examined; but the only circumstance which could countenance the suspicion that was entertained of him, was a mysterious memorandum found in an old pocket-book.

It consisted of two cabalistic words, "thorough-paced doctrine." This memorandum the examiners could not understand, and they therefore, of course, concluded that it was pregnant with treason. Dr. Yalden's explanation removed the difficulty. It was an old memorandum, he said, which he had made in the reign of Queen Anne.—He was then at the University, and during one of the vacations, he paid a visit to the metropolis. While there, he had been induced by curiosity to hear the famous Daniel Burgess, and a passage in his sermon had occasioned the suspected error. The preacher had been inveighing against pernicious doctrines; and after enumerating many kinds, continued, "But above all other pernicious doctrines, beware, my beloved, of the thorough-paced doctrine; that doctrine, I mean, which, coming in at one ear, passes straight through the head and out at the other ear."

Yours, Mr. Editor,

FRATER.

Agreeable Surprise.

We can readily fancy how a poor fellow, far from home, must feel upon receiving a gift like the one recorded below. A gentleman of this city, while passing along the streets a few days since, was accosted by a stranger, who presented him a small package. He found within the parcel a daguerrotype case, which opened with a spring. On touching it the lid flew up, and exposed to his astonished vision a perfect likeness of his two young daughters, whom he had not seen for years before in the East. At the head of the picture was the inscription "Here we are, Pa." The delighted father, as might be expected, was completely overcome by the affecting incident.—Sacramento News.

A western editor lately offered his hat as a prize for the best essay on independence. The following obtained the prize:

National Independence is easier imagined than described; personal independence consists emphatically in being situated in a clean shirt, drawers, socks, and a nicely blacked pair of fine boots, with at least a dollar and a half, and a clean cambric in your pocket—all on Sunday morning, with your wife on one arm and your own baby on the other, taking your own course towards your own church; to sit under the ministry of your own preacher, in the blissful expectation of snoozing in your own yew, wherein no one dare venture to nudge you with his elbow, or tickle your nose with a straw.

EFFECTS OF DELUSION.—In one of the southern towns of Herkimer county, N. Y., there is a lamentable exhibition of the effects of what is called Spiritualism, in the person of a young man of fine talents, and heretofore of much promise. He believes himself commissioned to cure diseases by direction of spirits. He refuses to speak or to take food, and his friends fear he will not recover from the mental delusion.

Snow at the North.—The snow is yet four feet deep in some of the hill towns on each side of the Connecticut, in the vicinity of Windsor, Vt., and Claremont, N. H. A letter from Livermore, Me., states that the snow averages from one to two feet in depth in the roads in that town. On the 28th ult., there were three feet of snow on the Catskill mountain, and travel was much impeded.

The battle of Lexington was fought on the 18th of April, 77 years ago. Accounts of the day state that the heat was so great that much suffering was experienced by the soldiers in their retreat from Concord, that the cherry trees were all in blossom, and that spring grain, which was up to the soldiers' knees, was a great impediment to the march of the troops.

An American citizen in Florence says there is not in that city an angler, and that the carpenters have nothing but a red hot poker to bore holes with. Yet in that city the finest sculpture is produced.

THE ADDRESS.

To the People of Virginia.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—We proceed without apology or preface to the discussion of the following propositions:—

I. The use of spirituous liquors as beverages is not necessary, or conducive to health; but, on the contrary, is a prolific source of disease and death.

II. The use of spirituous liquors as beverages, is a most fruitful source of immorality and crime.

III. The consumption of spirituous liquors as beverages, produces a vast amount of indigence, absolute pauperism, and personal suffering from want; and is eminently destructive of a well regulated and prosperous political economy.

If either of these propositions be true, the inference is obvious, that the legal prohibition of the traffic in spirituous liquors would be wise and proper. We think we shall not fail to demonstrate that they are all true.

IV. We shall invite your candid examination of a few of the prominent pretenses and apologies of which the advocates of this traffic usually predicate their justification.

We are aware, fellow-citizens, that some venerable notions, and honored customs, prevailing in the "Old Dominion," will be shocked by the boldness of these propositions. They will be anathematized as unholily infractions of the cardinal canons of old Virginia. The effort to drive the demijohn from the sideboard, and the wine cup from the social circle, where they have been cherished as household gods, time immemorial, will be denounced as a fanciful invasion of personal and private rights, over which the arm of the civil law has no rightful jurisdiction. We are advised of all this. But no length of antiquity can consecrate vice. The truth should be heeded before error, however fortified by the sanctions of a fascinating but really pernicious and criminal hospitality. Disregarding, therefore, the dictates of prejudice, we appeal to the reason and understanding, and proceed to the discussion of the pernicious and disastrous influences and effects of the use of spirituous liquors upon life and health.

It may be urged that these are subjects proper only for the consideration of physiologists and physicians. But although you may not be skilled in the science of physiology, nor acquainted with the technicalities of the medical art, yet you are capable of forming opinions from matters of personal observation; and therefore we may properly enquire—what means the physical relaxation of the staggering drunkard? what mean his loss of reason and right perception, his voracious and profane babblings? his reckless and ungovernable demon? What mean the horrible distortions of mind and body produced by mania a potu? What mean the brutal aspect and dying agonies of the habitual drunkard? What mean all these things, if the use of spirituous liquors be not pernicious? It does not require the skill of a physician to answer.

Moreover we may appeal to chemical analysis. The result is alcohol. Apply the same test to this, and you ascertain the component parts of alcohol to be hydrogen, carbon and oxygen, in the proportion of nearly 13, 52 and 35 to the hundred. The final result, therefore, is poison, subtle, severe, and fatal.

It is well known, that in alcohol there is not a particle of nutriment.—It is utterly indigestible. We repeat that such an article, used as a beverage, must be destructive of health and life.

But the medical faculty have addressed themselves to the subject and given to the world the result of their investigations. They inform us that when any nutriment adapted to the constitution, is received into the stomach, it undergoes a certain and necessary preparation. When this preparation is accomplished there are certain vessels which take up the nutriment, and distribute it through every region of the system, giving to each component part thereof, as it passes around, that which is adapted to its nature and sustenance;—to the bones, to the muscles, to the skin—to each its "portion in due season." But when alcohol is taken into the stomach it resists all modification. It is seized by these distributing agencies, and as it is successively presented by them, to each member and constituent of the body, it meets with a prompt and unqualified rejection; and thus it remains, rapidly coursing through all the fountains and streams of life, fostering, poisoning, inflaming, unchanging and unchangeable, until it is expelled through the pores of the skin, by the resistance of nature. And this is the nutritious beverage which claims and receives the protecting sanctions of the civil code of this civilized and christian commonwealth!

But we will submit the question at once to the medical faculty, and let them speak for themselves.

Dr. Rush.—"Men in all kinds of business would be better without the use of spirituous liquors"—and "there was but one or two cases in which they could be used without essential injury."

Dr. Frank.—"The use of these liquors ought to be entirely dispensed with, on account of their tendency, even when taken in small doses, to induce disease, premature old age, and death."

Dr. Paris.—"Ardent spirits produce more than half of all chronic diseases."

Sir Astley Cooper.—"Never suffered spirits to be in his house, declaring that spirits and poison are synonymous terms."

Dr. Harris.—"The moderate use of spirituous liquors has destroyed many who were never drunk."

Dr. Daniel Drake, of Ohio:—"Ardent spirits are a great quickener and disturber of the animal system, in moderate doses, imparting an unnatural excitement; in excessive draughts, suddenly extinguishing life; thus resembling in their effects, a number of deleterious vegetable substances, such as stramonium, henbane, the Prussic acid and opium, which we label poison."

Dr. Sewall, a man eminently distinguished as a physician, and respected for his high moral worth—gives the pathology of spirituous liquors as follows:—"Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Emaciation, Corpulence, Dropsy, Ulcers, Rheumatism, Gout, Tremors, Palpitation, Hysteria, Epilepsy, Palsy, Lethargy, Apoplexy, Melancholy, Madness, Delirium Tremens, Premature old age, compose but a small part of the catalogue of diseases produced by ardent spirits."

One is reminded, in reciting this list, of the elegant lines of Milton, when describing the effects of that "fall" which "brought death into the world with all our woe."

"What misery the incubation of Eve hath brought on men—Immediately a place before his eyes appeared, sad, noisome, dark; A lazarus-house it seemed; where were laid Numbers of all diseases; all maladies Of ghostly spasm, or racking torture, quins, Of heartick agony, all fevers kinds, Demonic phrensy, moping melancholy, And moonstruck madness, pining atrophy, Dropsies and asthmas, & joint-racking rheums. Drove was the tossing, deep groans; Despair Tended the sick, busied from couch to couch; And ever their triumphant Death his dart Shook, but delayed to strike, though oft invoked With vows, as their chief good and final hope."

Every line and shade of this striking picture, without any platitudes for poetic coloring or license, has been more than realized in the effects of the use of spirituous liquors.

Dr. Chapman:—"The evils of using ardent spirits are so great, that the emptying of Pandora's box was but the type of what has been experienced by the diffusion of these liquors among the human species."

Forty Physicians in the city of New York, issued a publication a few years ago, from which we make the following extract:—"The use of distilled liquors by these in health, is in no case whatsoever, beneficial for the preservation of health, or for the endurance of fatigue or hardship."

Four members of the medical faculty in the University of Glasgow, eleven physicians of the Royal College of Physicians of that city, the President and 27 Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons; and 30 other medical practitioners, certify, that "the habitual use of ardent spirits was a principal cause of disease, poverty and misery in that city; and the entire disuse of them would powerfully contribute to improve the health and comfort of the community."

City of Dublin: Thirty of the most eminent professors and medical practitioners in this city declared that "nothing would tend so much to improve the health and comfort of the community, as the entire disuse of ardent spirits."

Dr. Samuel Earle, late Secretary of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Philadelphia, says:—"All use of ardent spirits as a drink, is an abuse. They are mischievous under all circumstances."

Boston.—Seventy-five of the physicians of this city published this declaration:—"Men in health are never benefited by the use of ardent spirits.—On the contrary, the use of them is a frequent cause of disease and death."

The College of Physicians in Philadelphia, after a careful examination, gave it as their opinion that 700 deaths were occasioned in that city by intemperance in a year. The same ratio of mortality throughout the United States would make the whole number of deaths thus occasioned more than sixty thousand annually.

Judge Cranch, several years ago, estimated the number of deaths occasioned annually in the U. States, by

the use of spirituous liquors, at thirty-seven thousand five hundred.

Bishop Mellicone, at "not less" than thirty thousand.

Annapolis.—The physicians of this city, averaged the deaths there annually, which were the result of intemperance, for several years. It was one to every three hundred and twenty-nine inhabitants. The same average throughout the United States, would have made the number upwards of fifty thousand.

And now, fellow-citizens, without wearying you with an unnecessary augmentation of evidence, may we not with confidence demand, if we have not made good the first proposition? Is there not cause to exclaim with the indignation of Milton, in his Sampson agonistes:—

"O madness! to think use of strongest wines, And strongest drinks our chief support of health, When God, with these forbidden, made choice to rear:

His mighty champion, strong above compare, Whose drink was only from the limpid brook."

We conclude our observations on this part of the subject in the language of Judge Lumpkin of Georgia:

"Legislators will have to advance or else retrace their steps, and repeal the many wholesome provisions already enacted to prevent offences against the public police, health and morality. A physician, a surgeon, wilfully endeavoring to spread the small-pox; a butcher selling the flesh of diseased animals; or a baker, unwholesome bread, are severally liable to be indicted and punished. All nuisances which tend to annoy the community, or injure the health of the citizens in general, or which tend to corrupt the manners and morals of the people, subject their authors to severe penalties. I repeat it, these salutary enactments must be blotted from the statute book, or an additional clause must be adopted to include the vendor of 'distilled damnation,' who fills his neighborhood with 'lamentation, mourning and woe,' by supplying every family with that which seldom enriches him, and makes them poor, and miserable and wicked."

II. The use of spirituous liquors as beverages is a most fruitful source of immorality and crime.

It has been the policy of our opponents to seek to quiet the public mind

by alleging that the temperance movement is the mere ebullition of priestcraft and fanaticism, having no sound foundation in the principles of truth and sound philosophy, and no warranty in actual matters of fact. This allegation is one of the usual artifices of an adroit adversary to prevent investigation of a bad cause. But we shall take care to expose the fallacy of this artifice; and, as in our remarks upon the first proposition, we eschewed all mere speculative argument and naked assumption, and challenged assent to the proposition discussed upon the principles of well defined science and unquestionable experience, so we propose to sustain the second proposition by the results of experience and the power of well ascertained facts.

If, fellow-citizens, the use of these liquors produces the physical evils, the disease and death already described, it follows that such use is immoral and criminal; just as clearly so as suicide. But to the evidence of experience and facts.

That upright man and eminent Judge, Sir Mathew Hale, long anterior to any organized effort, voluntary or legal, to suppress intemperance, made this declaration, as the result of twenty years experience and observation:—"That if all murders and slaughters, and riots, and tumults, the adulteries, fornications, rapes, and other great enormities which had been committed, were divided into five parts, four of them would be found to have been the result of intemperance."

A few years ago an investigation pertinent to our present inquiry, was made by the House of Commons in Great Britain. The conclusion was "that in all trials for murder, with few exceptions, the criminal, in the first instance, had delivered up his mind to the brutalizing effects of spirituous liquors."

Examinations have also been made of the criminal calendar in this country. Look at a few of the results.

Ohio Penitentiary:—"Of 134 prisoners, only 36 claimed to be temperate." Auburn State Prison, New York:—"467 convicts were decidedly intemperate."

State Prison, Charleston, Mass.—"100 out of 119 committed during a year, were committed for crimes occasioned by intemperance."

State Prison, Weatherfield, Conn.:—"Upwards of 99 out of 129 convicts were intemperate."

Keeper of Ogdensburg Jail, N. Y.:—"Reported that seven-eighths of the criminals and three-fourths of the debtors there were intemperate."

The Keeper of the Baltimore Prison:—"Of 2322 criminals committed, 421

were intoxicated when committed, and in his opinion eight-tenths of the whole were intemperate."

In Boston, there were 95 drunkards committed to the penitentiary in one month.

Stephen Badlam, criminal jailor, Boston, says:—"More than half the commitments were occasioned by intemperance;" and the physician to the same jail stated that more than three-fourths were hard drinkers.

House of Correction, Boston:—"In one year, of 643 who were committed, 453 were drunkards. The overseers of the same house say 'seven-eighths of all the sentences of imprisonment were occasioned, more or less directly, by intemperance.'"

A celebrated Jurist of New York, declared that he could find but three cases of murder committed in that city during 15 years, which were not committed under the influence of spirituous liquors.

A gentleman who took the trouble to prosecute the enquiry, ascertained, that of more than 200 murders committed in the United States in one year, nearly all had their origin in drinking intoxicating liquors.

Felix Grundy declared, after 30 years extensive practice, that four-fifths of all crime committed in the United States, can be traced to intemperance.

"In the city of New York, the number of persons arrested for different offences in 1849, was 19,243, of which 11,633 were for drunkenness. The wardens of the city prison of that city, states that the number of commitments for 1849 was 18,042, of which number eleven twelfths were, according to their own voluntary confession, persons of intemperate habits, the balance claiming to be moderate drinkers."

"The semi-annual report of George W. Matsell, Chief of Police for the city of New York, for the 6 months ending on 31st December, 1851, presents these extraordinary facts:—That during a period of six and a half years, there have been in that city 180,646 persons arrested, of whom 140,792 had been arrested 'for offences resulting almost entirely from the free use of intoxicating drinks.'"

Judge Cranch, of the District of Columbia, in discussing the injurious effects of the manufacture and consumption of spirituous liquors, upon the pecuniary interests of the country, predicates his calculation of the "cost of crime" on the fact "admitted on all hands" that three-fourths of all the crimes prosecuted were occasioned by intemperate drinking.

Will it be alleged that these are the results of examination at isolated and particular localities, and do not afford fair criterion of the country at large? Such facts and results are not confined to chosen localities; nor do we fail to produce others because there are no others ascertained.—Wherever the investigation has been made, the same results have been discovered,—so that we would be warranted in adopting the language of the Sheriff of London and Middlesex, on a certain occasion:—"that the evil which lies at the root of all other evils, is that, especially, of drinking ardent spirit; that he had long been in the habit of hearing criminals refer all their misery to this, so that he has ceased to ask the cause of their ruin, so universally was it effected by spirituous liquors."

But we pass from the evidence of others, and appeal to the personal observation of every reader. And we enquire—Who is the profane swearer? Who the boldest blasphemer? Who the vulgarist blackguard? We answer.—The drunkard. Who is the Sabbath-breaker? the gambler? the common brawler? the incendiary? the rioter? the murderer? You know, it is the drunkard. Who, in the language of Dr. Young,

"Turns atheist, as did Eli's sons, who filled With lust and violence, the house of God." It is the drunkard.

What crime is there, to the perpetration of which men have not been instigated by the use of intoxicating liquors? What that is holy, has it not polluted? What that is beautiful, has it not defaced? What that is good, has it not destroyed? Has it not invaded the domestic circle, and rent asunder the strongest bonds of friendship, affection and duty, conjugal, parental, and filial, dried up the deepest fountains of human sympathy and kindled on the altar consecrated to the kindliest and highest feelings of the heart, the fiercest flames of diabolical hatred? Let the worse than wild, owed wife, as she flies from the fury of her bearded husband, to seek a refuge and a home beneath the roof of strangers, answer. Let the worse than beggared children of a drunken father, as they stand knocking at your door for shelter and for food, answer.

The demon intemperance "spares not the high nor the humble." It scorns not to stoop to the lowly. It